

both history and as an unfolding of human tragedy. I am confident that the Commission's efforts will demonstrate that as Americans we are willing to confront our own past, and in so doing, we will demonstrate our leadership in the international effort to obtain justice for the victims of the Holocaust and their families.

NAFTA-TAA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the authorizations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program and the NAFTA Trade Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) program expire today, June 30, 1999. Accordingly, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the programs through fiscal year 2001. There should be no gap in the authorizations for these vitally important programs, which have long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Efforts to increase the participation of the United States in global trade are essential to the continued growth of our economy. However, when increased trade is a cause of dislocation for some U.S. workers and firms, we must be prepared to respond. The TAA programs are the cornerstone of our longstanding efforts to cushion the impact of the blow for employees and businesses who have been harmed by imports. Most important, TAA provides retraining and technical assistance so these workers and firms can thrive in the new economy.

A number of reforms in the TAA programs have been proposed recently. The legislation that I am introducing today is intended to continue these programs as their Congressional authorization is set to expire. However, the bill is not meant to preclude important discussions of broader, systemic changes.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST ANGELES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the West Angeles Community Development Corporation (CDC). This thriving community development organization was founded in 1994 as an outreach program of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, a 15,000 member congregation in the Crenshaw area, located in my Congressional District. The West Angeles CDC is dedicated to economic empowerment, social justice, and community transformation for its surrounding South Los Angeles area.

The West Angeles CDC has achieved success in developing a school-based training program in peer mediation named Peace-Makers, launching a job placement assistance program, providing renters' assistance and case management services to families displaced from housing, and providing emergency food assistance to those in need. In ad-

dition, the CDC recently built the West A Homes, a 44-unit apartment complex for large low-income families.

In recognizing the significant outreach ministry of the West Angeles CDC, I must highlight the outstanding leadership of the organization's distinguished Board of Directors: Bishop Charles E. Blake, Pastor of the West Angeles Church; Lula Ballton, Esq., Executive Director of the CDC; Dr. Desiree Tillman-Jones, Chairperson of the Board; Mrs. Belinda Ann Bakkar; Mrs. Jueline Bleavins; Mr. Mack Bruins; Ms. Stasia Cato; Mrs. Nancy Harris; Mr. Harold T. Hutchison; Mrs. Janet Johnson-Welch; Ms. Nathalie Page; Ms. Sandra McBeth-Reynolds; Rev. Donald T. Paredes; Mr. Maurice Perry; Mr. Mark J. Robertson; Mr. Roy Sadakane; Mr. Paul H. Turner; and attorneys Patricia S. Cannon, Anne C. Myles-Smith, and Wyndell J. Wright. These dedicated individuals have selflessly fulfilled the vision of the West Angeles CDC by bringing compassion, hope, and healing to the Crenshaw community they serve.

The West Angeles CDC's contributions to the South Los Angeles community have been invaluable. I congratulate them on their outstanding work and offer my best wishes for their continued success. With construction underway of a beautiful new West Angeles Cathedral, I am confident the West Angeles Church of God in Christ and the West Angeles Community Development Corporation can look forward to a long and prosperous future.

H.R. 2373, THE START-UP SUCCESS ACCOUNTS ACT OF 1999

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from South Carolina in the introduction of legislation that will give owners of newly formed small businesses a new way to channel capital into the growth of those businesses.

I am very excited to join my colleague, Mr. DEMINT, in this effort. I'm pleased to serve alongside Mr. DEMINT on the Small Business Committee and have found that we see eye-to-eye on so many issues of critical importance to small businesses in our respective states. I believe that we share a common interest of helping small businesses thrive in our nation, and this legislation is a step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, Small businesses are the economic foundation of southwest Washington. As my colleague mentioned, they account for nearly all new jobs in our economy. However, a majority of those new small businesses fail in the first few years of existence—largely due to lack of capital.

As currently structured, the tax system seems to penalize capital retention. Certainly, it provides disincentives for small businesses to save, which I believe is misguided policy.

As one who grew up with small business owners, I am aware of the struggles that one goes through in trying to build a business. My folks owned a small clothing store as I was growing up, and went on to run a small ice-cream and sandwich shop. They certainly had their good years, and their bad and tried des-

perately to make ends meet during those less profitable years.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, the Start-Up Success Accounts Act of 1999, would help our small businesses save for those rainy days; and it would allow them to take a more careful, considered approach to investing in the growth of their business. By allowing business owners to set aside up to 20 percent of their profits in more successful years and defer tax on those profits until later years, this bill would put another instrument in the toolbox of new small business owners, who need all the help that we can provide.

Giving small businesses a fighting chance to succeed isn't a Democratic issue or a Republican issue—it's an American issue. It's the common sense thing to do, and I am proud to join with my colleague in drafting and introducing this bill. I think that this straight-forward legislation will appeal to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who see the simple benefits of promoting savings.

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure for Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1658, the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

The Constitution is the foundation of our great nation. From an early age we are taught that we are entitled to basic rights and liberties, and we cherish these rights and protections afforded under our Constitution. When these rights are violated, we are quick to demand action and correction.

This is a time when we must demand action and correction. The current civil asset forfeiture laws abuse individual rights by denying basic due process.

Under current law, there are two kinds of forfeiture—criminal asset forfeiture and civil asset forfeiture. Under criminal asset forfeiture, if you are indicted and convicted of a crime, the government may seize your property if your property was used, however indirectly, in facilitating the crime for which you have been convicted.

I have no problem with that law. Not only is it a good deterrent against a number of crimes, but it does not deny anyone their Constitutional rights.

However, under civil asset forfeiture, the government can seize your property, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the property owner. The government can seize property merely by showing there is probable cause to believe that these assets have been part of some illegal activity. This means that even if there is no related criminal charge or conviction against the individual, the government may confiscate his or her property.

And property can be anything—your car, your home, your business. The government can take anything and everything premised on